

# Faculty and Staff

of the  
Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies



**MENS ET FIDES MUTUA**

May 2009



# Director and Senior Leaders

## **Dr. Richard D. Downie, Director for the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies**

After retiring from the Army, Dr. Richard D. Downie was appointed Director of the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies by the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. During his distinguished military career, Dr. Downie earned numerous awards and medals, and held a wide variety of command and staff positions, serving as an Infantryman and Foreign Area Officer specializing in Latin America. Dr. Downie had several assignments in Germany; was an exchange officer in Colombia; worked at both the U.S. Army South and Southern Command in Panama; coordinated Western Hemisphere affairs on the U.S. Joint Staff; served with the Multinational Specialized Unit in Bosnia; and was the Defense and Army Attaché in Mexico. His final U.S. army assignment was in command of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), where he served as the Institute's first Commandant. His military education includes the U.S. Army War College, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Course, and the Defense Strategy Course. Dr. Downie is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (Class of 1976) with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He also holds a Masters of Arts Degree and Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Southern California.



## **Mr. Kenneth A. LaPlante, Deputy Director**

Mr. LaPlante assumed his current position in January 2006 after serving as Dean of Students and Administration. After serving more than 27 years in the U.S. Army in light infantry and special operation forces and as a Foreign Area Office he retired as a colonel. His Western Hemisphere assignments included: faculty member, Army School of the Americas in Panama; Director of Athletics, Armed Forces Physical Education School in Paraguay; Fellow, Argentine National Defense School; and, Commander of the US Military Group in Venezuela. He also served on the Army Staff as Chief of the Latin American Branch, as a U.S. delegation advisor to the Inter-American Defense Board and College, and as the Chief of the Political Military Affairs Division of the Army Strategy, Plans and Policy Directorate (G-3). He was a private consultant on Inter-American politico-military affairs to the U.S. Army prior to his return to active federal service as an Army civilian serving as the first Executive Liaison Officer for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). In addition to his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, he holds a Masters Degree in Management, and he attended the Defense Language Institute's Spanish course graduating with honors.



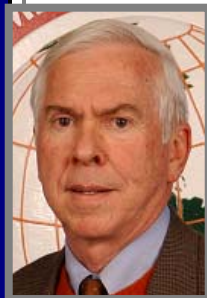
## **Ambassador (Ret.) Cris Arcos, Political Advisor to the Director**

Crescencio (Cris) Arcos recently served as the Government Affairs Counselor at Kirkpatrick Lockhart and Gates LLP. He was Assistant Secretary and Director of International Affairs at U.S. Department of Homeland Security (03-06). He served (99-03) as a Member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board at the White House. Cris retired from the U.S. Department of State with the rank of Ambassador. His last position was Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras as well as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, White House Coordinator for Public Diplomacy on Central America, Deputy Coordinator in the Office of Public Diplomacy for Latin America at State and Deputy Director of the Nicaraguan Humanitarian Assistance Office. His foreign postings included: Belgium, Portugal, Brazil, Soviet Union (Russia) and Honduras. Cris has a B.A. from U. Texas (Austin), an M.A. from Johns Hopkins University's Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, was a Graduate Research Fellow at U. Oregon's Institute of International Studies and a post-graduate student at the George Washington University's Institute of Sino-Soviet Studies. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York and a Senior Advisor at The Center for the Study of the Presidency and was previously: U.S. Member, U.N. Drug Control Program Advisory Board, Vienna (94-97); Director, Council of the Americas, New York (95-02); Member, ex officio, Department of Defense Reserved Forces Policy Board (03-05).





**Dr. Luis Bitencourt, Acting Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of National Security Affairs**  
 Dr. Luis Bitencourt was appointed to CHDS in July 2005. Prior to joining NDU, Dr. Bitencourt was the Director of the Brazil Project (2000-2005) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Visiting Professor at the Georgetown University. For most of his professional life, Dr. Bitencourt simultaneously pursued two careers. In the Brazilian federal administration, he performed several functions related to research and training in strategic planning, international security, public administration, and intelligence (1974-1999). At the Catholic University of Brasilia, Dr. Bitencourt was a professor and dean (1987-2000). Dr. Bitencourt also worked for the United Nations as a Regional Coordinator in East Timor, as a member of the Team of Electoral Experts in Tajikistan, and as a rapporteur for the U.N. Commission on Intervention and Sovereignty. He has a doctorate and an M.A. in World Politics from the Catholic University of America, an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Brasilia and a Bachelor's in Mathematics. His research interests include hemispheric security, terrorism, trade, and democracy.



**Major General (Ret.) John C. Thompson, Dean of Students and Administration**  
 Major General (Ret.) John C. Thompson was previously CHDS' Chief of Executive Programs and Operations. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. During his army career he served in a variety of command and staff assignments in the U.S. and overseas. He served as Deputy Director of Operations, J-3, on the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. and as Director of Operations, J-3, of U.S. Southern Command in the Republic of Panama. He later served as Commanding General of the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command, as President of the Inter-American Defense Board, and as Director of the Inter-American Defense College. General Thompson has master's degrees from Middlebury College and from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He attended John Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies and is a graduate of the National War College. He has done post-graduate study at New York University and at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

## Faculty



**Dr. Richard Downes, Associate Dean and Chair, National Security Policy and Strategy Department, and Professor of National Security Affairs**  
 Dr. Richard Downes is a career Latin Americanist and one of the founding members of the Faculty of the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. For 23 years, he specialized in Latin America security issues as a U.S. Air Force public affairs officer, military educator, and politico-military affairs officer, including four years in the J-5 Western Hemisphere Division of the Joint Staff. He then served for six years as Director of Communications and Senior Research Associate at the University of Miami's North-South Center. After teaching at CHDS from 1998 to 1999, he joined the wireless telecommunications industry to direct programs related to technology-based interaction between North America and Latin America and the Caribbean. He returned to CHDS in August 2006. He is the author of numerous journal articles and professional reports on inter-American relations as well as Security Cooperation in the Americas: Resolving the Ecuador-Peru Dispute, and "Landpower and Ambiguous Warfare: The Challenge of Colombia in the 21st Century." He has testified before the U.S. Congress on the security situation in Colombia. He holds a B.S. degree from the USAF Academy, an M.A. in Latin America Studies from the University of Florida, and a Ph.D. in Latin American History from the University of Texas at Austin and speaks fluent Spanish and Portuguese.



**Dr. Michael Gold-Biss, Associate Dean and Chair, Complex Operations Department, and Professor of National Security Affairs**  
 Dr. Gold-Biss has served as Assistant Vice-President for International Programs at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas, and was a tenured Professor of Political Science and Director of the International Relations Program at Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota. He has also taught at the University of Costa Rica and the University of Minnesota. He received his Ph.D. in International Relations from the American University, a M.B.A. from the University of Minnesota, an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Delaware and a B.A. in International Affairs and History from Lafayette College. He has received several teaching awards, including the State of Minnesota Teaching Excellence Award. He has lectured for the public and private sectors and has authored books, chapters, and articles. Some of his research interests are civilian-military relations and democratization, political violence and terrorism, defense economics, and force transformation.



**Dr. Thomaz Guedes da Costa, Professor of National Security Affairs**

Dr. Costa's academic career includes experience teaching international relations theory, strategy, defense issues, and international political economy for the Department of International Relations Department at the University of Brasilia. He worked as a career analyst with Brazil's National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, as international market analyst of military aircraft at EMBRAER, and served as a researcher and advisor in international security, national defense, strategic planning, and foreign intelligence training in the Center for Strategic Studies and the Office of the Brazilian Presidency. Dr. Costa has a degree in international affairs from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University. Among his current research interests are international collaboration in interagency coordination, United States-Brazil defense relations, and curriculum development for security studies.



**Dr. Craig Deare, Professor of National Security Affairs**

Dr. Deare performed as CHDS' Dean of Academic Affairs from July 2004 to March 2007 and has been a member of the CHDS faculty since 2001. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years in a variety of Military Intelligence and Latin American Foreign Area Officer assignments. His professional experience includes positions such as: Assistant Professor of International Relations at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; Assistant Defense Attaché in Mexico City; Commander of a Special Operations Unit; Country Director in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Legislative Assistant for National Security Affairs for U.S. Senator Bob Graham; and as Congressional Liaison Officer in the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison. Dr. Deare has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Arizona. He earned an M.A. in International Relations and International Economics, and a Ph.D. in International Relations, both from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of The John Hopkins University. His areas of research and expertise include national security strategy and defense policy formulation; legislatures and defense, in particular oversight matters; international and defense economics; interagency and integrated operations; and military capabilities.



**Dr. Jaime García Covarrubias, Professor of National Security Affairs**

Prior to joining CHDS, Dr. García taught at the Institute of Political Science at the University of Chile, at the Central University and at Andrés Bello University. Dr. Garcia is a retired Chilean Brigadier and had varied assignments during his military career, including a Professorship at the Army's War College, command of an Infantry unit in 1994, and Directorship of the War College from 1995 to 1997. Dr. Garcia has a doctorate (summa cum laude) in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Salamanca, Spain. His Master's Degree is in Political Science from the University of Chile, and he holds a Bachelor's degree in Military Science. He is also a graduate of the Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies in Paris, France, and the Society of International Studies in Madrid, Spain. From 1990 to 1992, he completed studies in Economics at the Instituto de España (Madrid) and in the history of modern western civilization at the University of Paris IV "Sorbonne," in France.



**Dr. R. Evan Ellis, Assistant Professor of National Security Affairs**

Dr. Evan Ellis is a professor of national security studies, modeling, gaming and simulation. Dr. Ellis designs and conducts a variety of strategy and policy exercises for CHDS, including center's signature "NationLab" program. He is also a subject matter expert on Latin America's developing relationship with Asia, and leads research and activities by CHDS in this area. Dr. Ellis has presented his work on Latin America strategic issues and other topics in a broad range of business and government forums in the United States, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, France, and the United Kingdom. He has published numerous articles, including treatments of Latin America's relationship with China, urban street gangs, and regional energy security issues. His recent work "China and Latin America: the Whats and Wherefores" is the first book-length treatment of the topic to appear in print.



**General (Ret.) R. Oswaldo Jarrin Roman  
Minister of Defense Chair and Professor of National Security Affairs**

General (Ret) Oswaldo Jarrin Roman is the former Minister of Defense of Ecuador, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff of the Ecuadorian Armed Forces, Undersecretary of Defense, and Secretary of The National Security Council. He has received his title of Doctor in Educational Sciences, a post-graduate degree in Continental Defense from the IADC, and Master of Strategic Intelligence from the Army War College of Argentina. Jarrin has been director of the Military School of the Army, director of the War Academy, Dean of the Faculty of Military Sciences of the Polytechnic Superior School of the Army ESPE, and professor of the Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences FLACSO. Furthermore he has taken courses in France, the United States, Argentina, Brazil and Israel.

**Rear Admiral (ret) Manuel F. Lora, Peruvian Navy, Assistant Professor**

RADM Lora served in the Peruvian Navy for 36 years, during which he had a variety of assignments in both the operational and administrative fields. Among others positions, he served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Navy; Naval Intelligence Director; Commander of the Fifth Naval Zone, and Executive Director of Education. RADM Lora served in the logistic directorate as well as at the inspector general office at U.S. Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet Norfolk VA; and he was member of the Inter-American Naval Telecommunication Network Secretariat. RADM Lora holds a Masters of Arts in Security Studies, with an emphasis in international security, from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, he is also a Development and National Defense course graduate from the Centro de Altos Estudios Nacionales, and the Naval War College. At CHDS, RADM Lora serves as facilitator, lecturer and panelist. His areas of current research interest include international security in South America, defense transformation, stability operations, and new threats.

**General (Ret.) Carlos Alberto Ospina Ovalle  
Chief of Defense Chair and Associate Professor of National Security Affairs**

General (Ret) Carlos Alberto Ospina Ovalle is the former Commander of the Colombian Armed Forces and also served for 42 years in the Colombian Army. Ospina has a Bachelor's in Military Science and received a Master's in Security and Defense from the Senior War College of Colombia. He also graduated from the National War College at the National Defense University in Washington DC with a specialty in strategy. Furthermore he took courses in human rights at the International School in San Remo, Italy. He was a Professor of Military History at the Colombian Military School and was also a Professor in the War Academy in Santiago Chile.

**Guillermo A. Pacheco Gaitán, Associate Professor of National Security Affairs**

Before joining CHDS, Mr. Pacheco worked as a Political Advisor to the Guatemalan Ministry of Defense. He has also served in other public positions such as Advisor to the Secretary General of the President of Guatemala; Minister Counselor for the Guatemalan Embassy to Colombia, and Legislative Advisor in the Guatemalan Congress. In addition, Mr. Pacheco served as the National Coordinator for the OAS De-mining Program. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from the University of San Carlos; a Master's in Regional Planning from the Los Andes University in Bogota, Colombia; a Master's in Political Science from the Rafael Landívar University; and a Masters in Defense and Hemispheric Security from the Inter American Defense College and Salvador University in Washington DC, from which he graduated with honors. He also earned a Diploma in Theological Studies from the Central American Theological Seminary (SETECA) and graduated with honors from the Leadership Academy of the House of God Church, both in Guatemala. Mr. Pacheco has also completed various classes in Civil-Military Relations and Defense Planning and Resource Management, and he has been a CHDS fellow at various courses.

**Dr. David Spencer, Professor of National Security Affairs**

Dr. Spencer earned his PhD in political science from George Washington University where he specialized in Latin American politics. Dr. Spencer grew up in Latin America, living in Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Venezuela, and Guatemala. Dr. Spencer has specialized in the study of Latin American insurgencies. He spent five years working in El Salvador during the recent civil war, and has spent the last nine years working in a variety of capacities in relation to the conflict in Colombia. Dr. Spencer has worked for a number of defense think tanks to include the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Prior to accepting the position at CHDS, Dr. Spencer was the Senior Director for Combating Terrorism at Hicks & Associates. In this capacity he provided support for a variety of projects for United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM).

**James L. Zackrison, Research Coordinator and Assistant Professor of National Security Policy**

Mr. Zackrison's interest in Latin America began at age two, when his family moved to Curaçao; he has since then lived in Colombia, Honduras, and Costa Rica. His academic interest is military history, principally the Spanish Empire's fortification system and its uses in combating irregular or formal forces, as well as what is now referred to as transnational organized crime. Prior to joining the CHDS faculty in 2006, Mr. Zackrison conducted research at the US Navy's Office of Naval Intelligence on the military capabilities and strategic interests of Latin America. During that time he spent three years as a visiting fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, where he co-edited the 1999 Strategic Assessment, and *Crisis? What Crisis? Security Issues in Colombia* (1999). Other publications include: *From Clothes to Cocaine: Five Hundred Years of Smuggling in Mexico*, *Low Intensity Conflict & Law Enforcement* (2001), and *Combating Terrorism: Strategies of Ten Countries* (2002). Mr. Zackrison has a B.A. degree in Latin American Studies, and M.A. in history from Loma Linda University (California), an M.A. in National Security Studies from California State University, and is a Ph.D. candidate at St. Antony's College in Oxford University.

# Adjunct Faculty



## **Martin Edwin Andersen, Chief of Strategic Communications & Adjunct Professor**

Martin Edwin “Mick” Andersen has worked as a special correspondent for Newsweek and The Washington Post based in Buenos Aires and was one of the first non-Peruvian reporters to cover the Shining Path guerrillas from their Andean stronghold in the early 1980s. He is also a former managing editor of Port Security News, the Washington correspondent for GSN: Government Security News, and an investigative reporter for Insight on the News and CQ/Homeland Security. He was previously a professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and senior advisor for policy planning with the Criminal Division of the U.S. Justice Department. In 2001 Andersen won the U.S. Office of Special Counsel's "Public Servant Award" for his extraordinary contributions in fighting corruption and protecting national security information at Justice. He is the author of two critically-acclaimed books on Argentine history, *Dossier Secreto* and *La Policía: Pasado, Presente y Propuestas para el Futuro*, and served for eight years as senior Latin America analyst for Freedom House, the New York-based human rights group. Andersen, a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), also served as director of Latin America and Caribbean programs and founded the Civil-Military Project for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). Andersen is currently pursuing a doctorate in American history at the Catholic University in Washington.

## **Dr. Salvador Raza, Adjunct Professor of National Security Affairs**

Dr. Raza was a commissioned officer in the Brazilian Navy where he was responsible for politics and strategy at Brazil's Naval War School. A specialist in the area of technology and international security, he is now actively engaged in researching the fields of force design, and of defense and security simulations. Dr. Raza, whose essays have won several awards, is currently responsible for the International Relations Department of the "Faculdades de Campinas" in Brazil. He earned his Ph.D. from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, his M.A. from King's College, University of London, and completed the Royal Navy Staff Course as well as the Superior Staff Course of the Brazilian Navy. He specializes in defense studies and armed forces analysis, and he is currently researching the theme of civil-military relations.

## **Brigadier General (ret) Boris Saavedra, Inter-American Defense College Liaison and Academic Facilitator**

Brigadier General (Ret) Boris Saavedra, an officer of the Venezuelan Air Force, has served in all operational positions in the Air Force. He has devoted more than 20 years of his professional life to academic activities, both in Venezuela and in the U.S. ranging from Flight Instructor and Academic Professor to Director of the Basic School of the Armed Forces. Saavedra is a graduate from the Venezuelan Air Force Academy, from which he received a B.S. in July 1968 in Science and Military Arts, specializing in Aeronautics in July 1968. He subsequently attended tactical and Air Staff courses at the Air War College in the Venezuelan Air Force, the Advanced Course of Military studies and joint and combined military operations at l'Ecole Supérieure de Guerre Interarmées of France (1983-1986), and the Advanced Course in National Defense at the Senior Institute for National Defense of Venezuela (1988-1989). He has a Master's degree in International Policy and Practice from George Washington University (2003).

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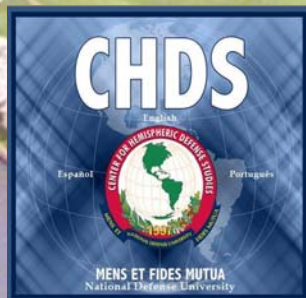
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Assistant Professor



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